FBI WASH DC

FBI DETROIT

3:44PM URGENT 1-25-69 JRK IP

TO: DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: DETROIT (44-989)

MURKØN, OO: MEMPHIS

ON THIS DATE, EARL DOWDY, DETROIT NEWS CITY DESK ADVISED THAT TODAY HE RECEIVED AN ANNONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALL FROM A FEMALE, WHO SAID THAT JAMES EARL RAY DID NOT MURDER DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, BUT THAT ONE CLIFFORD GREEVES, WHO BEARS A VERY STRONG RESEMBLANCE TO RAY IS THE PERSON WHO KILLED DR. KING. GREEVES LIVES AT ONE ONE ZERO FIVE SEVEN MARGATE HALL DRIVE, BRIDGETON, MISSOURI, AND WORKS FOR PEPSI COLA IN ST. LOUIS. DOWDY SAID THAT CALLER SOUNDED RATIONAL BUT WOULD NOT DISCLOSE HER IDENTITY. DETROIT INDICES NEGATIVE RE GREEVES. ABOVE FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION.

END.

GMA

FBI WASH DC

P

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

REC-24

5518

4 JAN 28 1969

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED
DIVISION 5 CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JAN 25 5 05 PM '69
JAN 27 6 58 AM '69
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

January 28, 1969

AIRTEL

1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Bishop

TO: SAC, St. Louis (44-775)

REC-24 FROM: Director, FBI (44-38861) —5518

MURKIN

~~X-102~~

Re Detroit teletype to the Bureau dated 1/25/69.

Earl Dowdy "Detroit News" city desk advised he received anonymous telephone call from a female who stated that James Earl Ray did not murder Martin Luther King, Jr., but that one Clifford Greeves is the person who killed Martin Luther King, Jr. According to the anonymous caller, Greeves bears a very strong resemblance to Ray and Greeves resides at 11057 Margate Hall Drive, Bridgeton, Missouri, and is employed by the Pepsi Cola Company at St. Louis, Missouri. Dowdy stated the caller sounded rational and she refused to disclose her identity.

MAILED 20 JAN 28 1969 COMM-FBI

St. Louis locate and interview Greeves and conduct all necessary investigation to thoroughly resolve this matter as well as any information stemming from interview of Greeves. You should determine whereabouts of Greeves during period of assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. (4/4/68). You should keep the Bureau fully informed.

Based on available data, Clifford Greeves not identifiable in Bureau files.

1 - Memphis (44-1987)

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
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Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

REL:ms/jms
(5)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. . .

53 FEB 4 1969

~~53 FEB 1969~~

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION
JAN 28 11 45 AM '69
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JAN 20 1 42 PM '69

JAN 20 1 39 PM 1969
F. B. I.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAILED 30
JAN 28 1969
COMM-FBI

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

NOTE:

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Detroit by their teletype of 1-25-69, advised they received the information as contained in the body of this airtel.

St Louis being instructed to locate and interview the person who allegedly bears a strong resemblance to James Earl Ray.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date: 1/29/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (P)

RE: MURKIN
OO: Memphis

Re Memphis airtel to Los Angeles, 1/16/69.

On 1/23/69, Mr. BRUCE BEATTY, General Manager, Princess Cruises, Los Angeles, California, advised SA JIM R. FREEMAN that the "Princess Italia" had not sailed from Europe on its maiden voyage as of 10/29/67, and did not arrive in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, until 12/19/67. He stated the "Princess Italia" has an all Italian crew. Mr. BEATTY suggested that the cruise ship "Jason" may have been in Puerto Vallarta during October 1967.

Mr. HENRY BINKLEY, Port Superintendent, Williams, Diamond, and Company, Wilmington, California, advised SA FREEMAN on 1/23/69, that the "SS Jason" first began cruises to Mexico ports in December 1967, and would not have been in Puerto Vallarta on 10/29/67. He stated that he knew of no other cruise ship which might have been in Puerto Vallarta at that time except possibly the "SS Statendam".

Mr. VICTOR FOX MATSON, Steamship Company, Wilmington, California, advised SA FREEMAN on 1/23/69, that the "SS Statendam" did not stop in the port of Puerto Vallarta during October or November 1967.

Extra copy furnished for benefit of Legat, Mexico City.

C. C. - Bishop
4 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - Los Angeles

JRF/cld
(8)

REC 99 44-38861-5519

12 JAN 28 1969

54 FEB 4 - 1969

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED
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JAN 28 4 29 PM 1969
F. B. I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JAN 28 4 35 PM '69

JAN

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

January 28, 1969

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Schutz

TO: SAC, Memphis

FROM: Director, FBI

MURKIN - THREAT AGAINST
THE PRESIDENT

R. M. Gaines, home address, 2006 Arena Place, Nashville, Tennessee, telephonically contacted the Bureau 7:10 a.m., 1/28/69, and stated he is presently located at 1056 College Street, Apartment 10, Memphis, Tennessee, and he is engaged in investigating the death of Martin Luther King. Gaines stated that he was a Negro but in his investigation he had concluded that no white man had killed King. He states he had taken a number of pictures and had other evidence that would bear out his conclusions.

Gaines stated he is presently employed by the Mahalia Jackson Chicken System, headquarters 705 South Parkway, East Memphis, that store is located at 691 South Parkway, East Memphis. He currently drives a Ford Mustang automobile.

It is noted that when Gaines first contacted the Bureau operator he made a threat that he would kill the president; however, upon talking to the Bureau Supervisor, specified he stated he only made this threat so that he would get to talk to someone.

Upon receipt notify local Secret Service of Gaines threat against the president. Secret Service Headquarters at Washington has been notified. Contact Gaines immediately and obtain full details of any information he may have concerning the shooting of Martin Luther King and advise Bureau results.

MAILED 7
JAN 28 1969
COMM-FBI

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 44-38861-5520

JWH:ms
(5)

XEROX
JAN 29 1969

NOTE: Michael Murphy, Secret Service, advised 7:22 a.m. by SA J. William Hines.

44-38861-5520

19 JAN 28 1969

REC 107

57 FEB 7 1969

Tolson
DeLoach
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Conrad
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Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5733

JAN 28 8 47 AM '69

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ENCLOSURE TO BUREAU FROM KANSAS CITY (1)

Bureau 44-38861
Kansas City 44-760
Airtel dated 1/22/69

memo from S. H. CROUSE, Warden, KSP, Lansing, Ks, 12/31/68

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-5591

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

STATE OF KANSAS
ROBERT B. DOCKING, Governor

S. H. CROUSE
Warden

Area Code: 913 - PArkview 7-3235

KANSAS STATE PENITENTIARY
P. O. Box 2
Lansing, Kansas 66043

December 31, 1968

RE: MORTON, Wilbur O.
KSP No. 17326

I interviewed Morton, an inmate of this institution on Tuesday, December 31, 1968 (p.m.). Morton's interview consisted of information concerning the killing of Martin Luther King by suspect (Missouri Penitentiary Escapee, Ray). Morton states to me that he has received his information from numerous conversations he has had with an unnamed inmate of this institution. This inmate X was a friend of Ray's in Jefferson City Penitentiary, as good a friend as Ray had. (As my informant understands Ray did not have many close friends). This inmate X was supposed to have been separated from Ray in the Missouri Penitentiary yard several times by a Custodial Lieutenant by the name of Holt who is now employed at the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth as Custodial Officer. As inmate X stated, Ray had an escape record and so did he from Illinois and the institution watched them. My informant stated that Ray stated to inmate X he was figuring on trying to escape and inmate X agreed to go with him. Their play was to saw the bars in I Building basement and some way go through to a water main or sewer outside the walls and during the process of making arrangment, inmate X wanted to know what they were going to do after they got out, where they were going to get money and hole up. Ray didn't tell him at first and later on he told inmate X that they wouldn't have to worry about a thing especially money as they would have a world of money and would be taken care of. Then I understand Ray told inmate X that he was going to kill Martin Luther King and everything was taken care of. Upon learning this, inmate X stated he did not want anything to do with this and then backed out escaping with Ray. Although Ray did not use the method that they were going to use. Inmate X is fairly certain he knows how he escaped. My informant stated that the bars in the basement of I Building are supposed to be cut and water or sewer line is supposed to run along the outside wall, also, a circle band saw blade was supposed to be stolen and that was what was used to saw the bars of basement of I Building. Ray's brother came to visit him just about a week before he escaped. These were just some points to check to see how much truth in the story. My informant stated he would talk to a FBI Agent but doesn't want to be drawn into the deal but will talk to an agent under the pretext of something to do with his federal time, legal action in court or anything to throw off suspicion and wants any information that might point to inmate X to show up from in-

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RE: MORTON, Wilbur O.
KSP NO. 17326 Interview on 12-31-68 Cont.

vestigation on the outside as he stated inmate X said the reason he has not said anything before now, was because he was afraid of getting his throat cut. My informant stated he is afraid of something happening to him if information indicated my informant put inmate X on the spot. After talking to informant at some length he doesn't appear to be a psyco but he has some previous time.

S. H. CROUSE
Warden

SHC:hes

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1-29-69

1 - Mr. Long

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Kansas City (44-760)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

COPIES MADE, DATE 5/4/78 BY RCB/BS RE M.L. King, Jr.
FOR REVIEW AT FORD AND/OR DELIVERY
TO HSCA RE REQUEST DATED 5/8/78
(SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

Re Kansas City airtel dated 1-22-69.

Referenced communication incorporated an interview with one Wilbur O. Morton who is incarcerated at the Kansas State Penitentiary. Morton advised that a person who he refuses to identify allegedly has information concerning James Earl Ray and the killing of Marting Luther King, Jr.

When the Agents "bluntly" asked Morton what he wanted for information which he possesses, he indicated that he desired the Agents' intercede with the local Judge on the local charge against him. Morton was then advised that his proposal would be brought to the Agents' supervisor's attention and if additional facts were desired, Morton would be recontacted.

It is incumbent upon you to insure that Morton fully understands that the FBI cannot be a bargaining agent between him and any tribunal nor can the FBI act as an intermediary between Morton and any other individual in such a matter as this. The Bureau should not be put in a position for any individual to be able to state at a later date that such a proposal was taken under consideration by the Bureau.

You should keep the Bureau fully advised of contacts made with Warden Crouse regarding his further interviews with inmate Morton.

MAILED 20 JAN 29 1969 COMM-FBI

1 - Memphis (44-1987)

REL:jms
(5)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. . .

Tolson
DeLoach
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Holmes
Gandy

79 FEB 7 1969

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5720

JAN 29 2 03 PM '69

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JAN 29 4 49 PM '69

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

NOTE:

Warden Crouse of the Kansas State Penitentiary furnished us the results of an interview with inmate Wilbur O. Morton. The interview of Morton by the warden in essence states that Morton has information regarding James Earl Ray which he received from an individual whom he refuses to identify.

Our Agents interviewed Mr. Morton and he again refused to divulge the identity of the person furnishing him information and indicated to our Agents that he would consider divulging the necessary information if consideration was given for leniency or a reduced sentence on the charge that he was currently incarcerated for. The Agents advised that they would bring this information to their supervisor's ATTENTION.

The purpose of this communication is to instruct Kansas City to insure that the Bureau is not to be put in a position of being a bargaining agent and to leave no doubt in Morton's mind that we cannot intercede in the sentence that he is serving.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1/22/69

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-

RE: MURKIN

Re report of SA RAYMOND B. HOWE, 12/13/68 at Kansas City.

Attached hereto is a memo from S. H. CROUSE, Warden, Kansas State Penitentiary, Lansing, Kansas, dated 12/31/68.

On 1/10/69 Warden CROUSE furnished the attached self-explanatory memo that he prepared regarding interview with inmate WILBUR O. MORTON. Warden CROUSE stated that he was sure that MORTON does not know any additional information other than that which he already related to him. However, he felt MORTON may possibly identify "Inmate X". Warden CROUSE stated he is attempting through prison records, to identify "Inmate X" in the event that MORTON is unwilling to identify himself. Warden CROUSE stated that on 1/6/69 WILBUR O. MORTON, KSP #17326, was returned to Wichita, Kansas, for trial.

The following interview was conducted by SAs ELMER R. FLETCHER and JAMES B. KELLY:

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

WILBUR O. MORTON, presently confined Sedgwick County Jail, Wichita, Kansas, on a writ from Kansas State Penitentiary

1 ENCLOSURE

3-Bureau (Enc. 1)
2-Memphis (Enc. 1)
1-Kansas City
RBH:jlh
(6)

REC-96 44-38861-5521

JAN 30 1969

E. P. - Bishop

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D - ROSEN

FBI

RECEIVED
FEDERAL INVESTIGATION
DIVISION 5710

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS JAN 29 4 03 PM '69

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS JAN 24 9 42 PM '69 FBI

FBI

JAN 30 10 31 AM '69

F. B. I. JAN 27 7 07 AM '69

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

in connection with a local armed robbery charge, volunteered on 1/14/68 he was previously confined in Missouri State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri, at the same time an inmate -- he declined to name -- was a guest of the State of Missouri. The unidentified inmate, according to MORTON, was very friendly with JAMES EARL RAY, accused killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING. During time MORTON and the unidentified convict were in MSP, MORTON was able to learn from this convict that RAY had planned an escape for some time and confided to the convict that RAY had made arrangements for lots of money after the escape and inferred he would get it in return for killing KING. MORTON acknowledged he had no first hand information concerning the threats of RAY or his plan for escape. He was hesitant to identify his convict friend in MSP claiming he feared for his life if an Agent approached the convict with the allegation MORTON had put the "con" on the spot.

When bluntly asked what MORTON wanted for the information he possessed, he agreed he was interested in a trade, and would reveal the name of the convict who reportedly had first hand information of these pertinent developments if Agent would approach the local judge in Wichita who is about to hear MORTON's charge of Armed Robbery, and arrange to have these charges dismissed. He explained this would preclude his having to return to the pen and thus decrease his chances of being harmed for furnishing information about his buddy.

MORTON was informed his proposal would be reported to Agent's supervisor and if additional facts were desired, he would be contacted.

LEADS:

KANSAS CITY:

AT LANSING, KANSAS:

Will maintain contact with Warden S. H. CROUSE to determine if he identifies "Inmate X".

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

KC 44-760

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

Will follow results of MORTON's prosecution and reinterview him if it is deemed advisable.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

[redacted]

Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

January 23, 1969

Director, FBI

Classified by 6080
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
LED/EGM

CONFIDENTIAL

1 - Mr. Long

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CCC/ps
ON 10-17-01

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

MAILED 3
JAN 23 1969
COMM-FBI

Reverend James Bevel, an official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, appeared on a television program in Philadelphia on January 19, 1969, and stated he has evidence that James Earl Ray did not kill Martin Luther King, Jr. He refused to divulge the evidence to the television interviewer, but said he had offered to defend Ray in court although he was not a licensed attorney.

Reverend James Bevel was interviewed at his residence in Philadelphia on January 21, 1969. He stated he was extremely busy as he had appointments through 11 p. m. He stated that he had proof of the innocence of James Earl Ray and since the FBI was the prosecutor and he was involved with the defense, he felt he should not furnish the information. It was pointed out to him that the FBI did not prosecute anyone but always made every effort to obtain all facts available in matters of investigative interest to this Bureau. He stated he sent a telegram to Ray on Saturday, January 18, 1969, and as yet had received no answer. He stated he plans to call Percy Foreman, attorney for Ray, and offer his services. He stated he would contact our Agents and advise if Mr. Foreman has accepted his offer. Reverend James Bevel stated if Mr. Foreman does not accept his offer, he plans to drop the entire matter as he feels he has no moral obligation toward James Earl Ray to produce his evidence of Ray's innocence if his offer of help is refused.

REC- 24

Reverend James Bevel stated he was at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee, on the ground underneath the balcony at the time Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot. When contacted in April of 1968, he refused to be interviewed.

19 JAN 24 1969

A source has advised this Bureau that Reverend James Bevel told a group that he has no evidence and he feels the "system" is killing a man not worth anything while this man killed a great man.

This is for your information.

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

1 - Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

REL:mfd/cs (5)

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

[redacted]

ASSISTED BY

Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

JAN 23 10 13 AM '69

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JAN 23 10 33 AM '69

F B I

COPIES MADE, DATE 5/4/75 BY [redacted]
[redacted] RE M. L. King, Jr.
FOR REVIEW AT FBIHQ AND/OR DELIVERY
TO HSCA RE REQUEST DATED 5/3/75
(SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

JAN 23 2 06 PM '69

CONFIDENTIAL

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

NOTE:

This letter is to advise the Department the results of the interview of Reverend James Bevel. The source mentioned in this letter is PH 897-R, a racial informant of the Philadelphia Office. This letter is classified Confidential as disclosure could seriously jeopardize our source.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CONFIDENTIAL

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: January 29, 1969

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Bishop

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Ellice A. Givan, Seattle, Washington, in which in a very antagonistic tone she claims that although we apprehended James Earl Ray, we have not brought to justice those who allegedly paid him to kill Martin Luther King, Jr. She does not indicate that she has any information of value but is just expressing her anti-Bureau sentiments.

Based on available data there is no information identifiable with Givan in Bureau files.

ACTION:

In view of the nature and tone of her letter, no acknowledgment is being made of her letter since no useful purpose would be served in doing so.

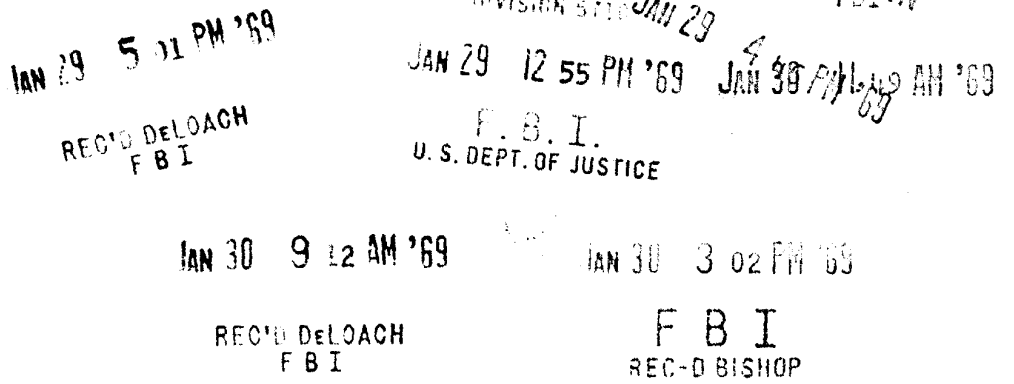
REC 114 44-38661-5523

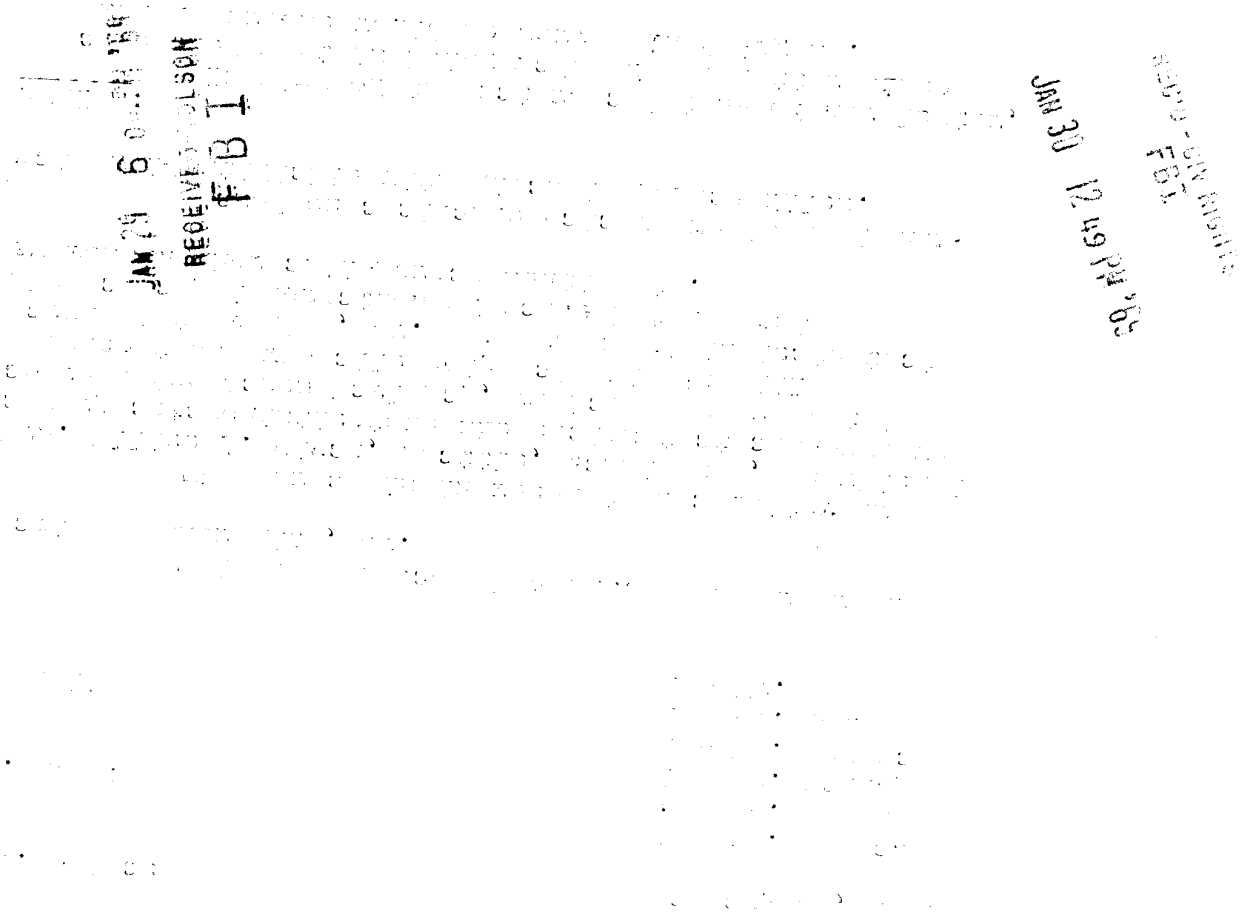
JAN 31 1969

REL:jms
(7)

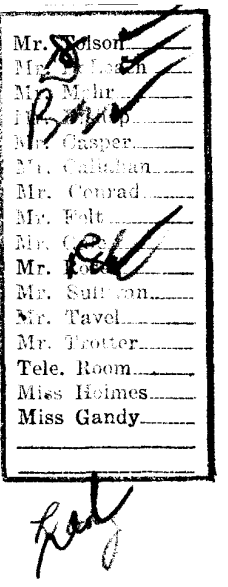
61 FEB 10 1969

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176





2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



Jan. 23, 1969

Dear Sir:

After the concerted effort you made to find and bring to justice - eventually - the suspected slayer of Martin L. King, it is a real travesty that since then you apparently have done nothing to bring to justice those who paid him to do the killing.

The records of his life bear out the fact that Earl Ray was no racist; and his own brother candidly admitted that the consuming love of his life was money. There were white racist groups and black militant groups who wanted him out of the way. Earl Ray had large unexplained amounts of money to live on and travel with.

And yet for almost a year, you have done nothing to bring the most real criminals to justice!

No wonder the "credibility gap" which exists in America today between us citizens and our government. How could it be otherwise when T. V. has made us so much more knowledgeable?

Black Americans also know that there was not much love lost between you and the late Martin L. King; and this should have made you all the more zealous to see that complete justice was done as speedily as possible.

Your continuing lack of action is going to push more moderates into the groups of extremists or, even worse, it will snuff out their thread of hope that somehow, Democracy can have real meaning for them, also.

As for the God of the Bible, the One you profess to believe in and obey, He makes no difference between the sins of omission and the sins of commission -- none!

"To him who knows to do good and does it not, it is sin."

And the advice of Plato is not bad either: "Know thyself."

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Ellice A. Givan

COPY:nm

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

JAN 27 5 19 PM '69

REC'D DeLOACH
F B I

REC'D - CIV R...
FBI

JAN 27 4 51 PM '69
RECEIVED-TOLSON
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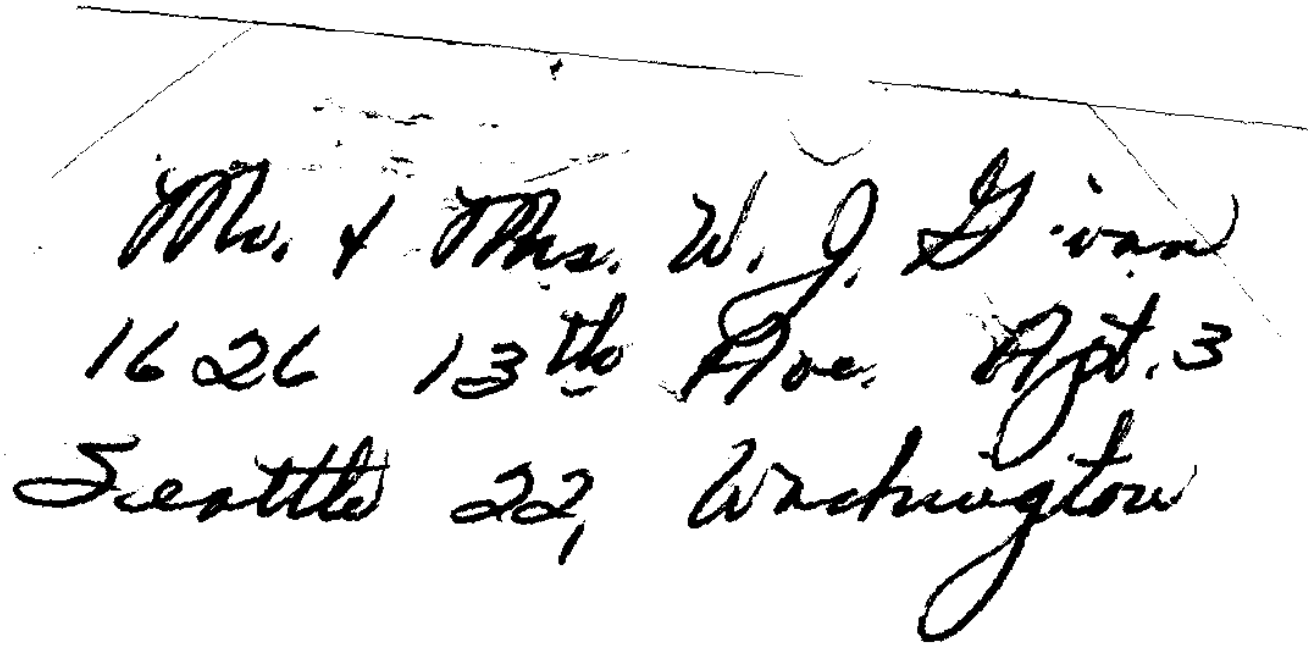
JAN 27 6 02 PM '69 JAN 28 11 09 PM '69

F B I
REC-D BISHOP

MR. JONES
JAN 27 6 40 PM '69
RECEIVED
F B I

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176


Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Givan
1626 13th Ave. Apt. 3
Seattle 22, Washington

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Jan. 23, 1969

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED - DIRECTOR
F B I
JAN 27 11 44 AM '69

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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As for the God of the Bible, the One you profess to believe in and obey, He makes no difference between the sins of omission and the sins of commission — NONE!

"To him who knows to do good and does it not, it is sin".

And the advice of Plato is not bad either; "Know thyself."

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Ellice A. Givan

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

EXP. PROC.

24 JAN 27 1969

REC- 114 44-38861-5524

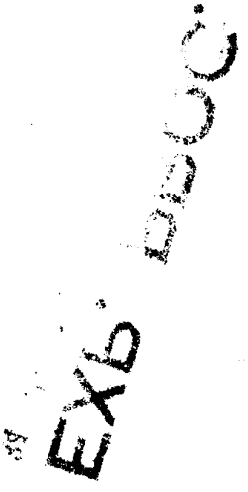
ELLICE A. [illegible]VAN
1626 13th AVE S
FEB 10 1969

2 JAN 27 1969

CORRESPONDENCE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

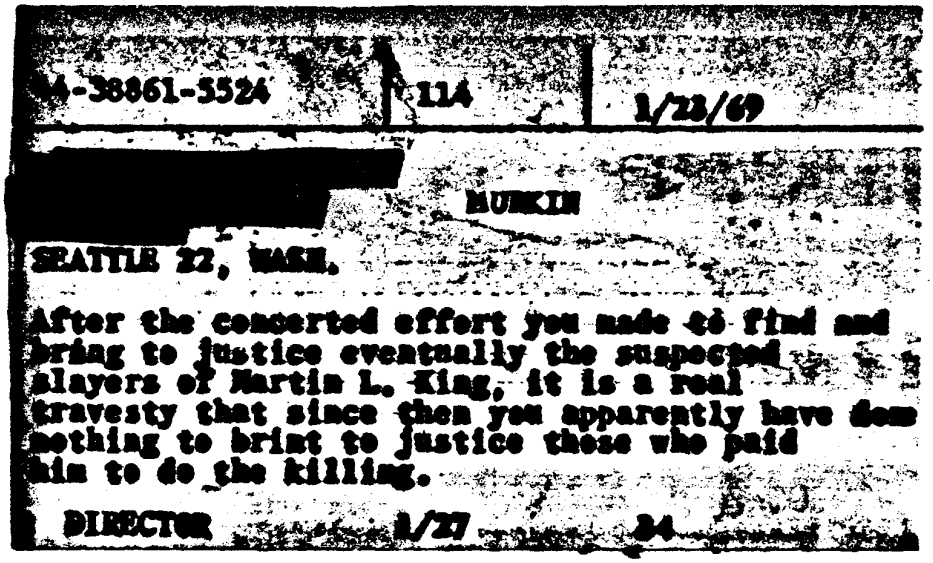
2 DIRECTOR



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

COPY FROM FOIA FILE

ORIGINAL NOT IN FILE



44-38861-5524 | 114 | 1/23/69

[redacted] HUNKIN

SEATTLE 22, WASH.

After the concerted effort you made to find and bring to justice eventually the suspected slayers of Martin L. King, it is a real travesty that since then you apparently have done nothing to brint to justice those who paid him to do the killing.

DIRECTOR 1/27 24

-5524

83

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1-29-69

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE URGENT

1 - Mr. Long

TO: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ARTICLE IN "THE WASHINGTON POST" NEWSPAPER TODAY QUOTES REVEREND RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, HEAD OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) IN A NEWS CONFERENCE AS INDICATING A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR (ASSASSINATION APRIL FOUR, NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT).

YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY INTERVIEW REVEREND ABERNATHY FOR DETAILS OF ANY INFORMATION HE POSSESSES, HIS SOURCE OF INFORMATION, AND CONDUCT ALL NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO THOROUGHLY RESOLVE THIS MATTER AS WELL AS ANY INFORMATION STEMMING FROM INTERVIEW OF REVEREND ABERNATHY. KEEP BUREAU FULLY INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS. AIRMAIL COPY SENT MEMPHIS.

REC 11 44-38861-5525

19 JAN 30 1969

1 - MEMPHIS (44-1987) (airtel)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION
JAN 29 1969
5:27 PM
TELETYPE

REL:jms
(4)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. . .

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

INITIALED
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
FEB 6 1969

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

61 FEB 6 1969

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D - ROSEN
FBI
JAN 29 3 30 PM '69
RECEIVED DIRECTOR JAN 29 12 56 PM '69
F B I
JAN 29 4 28 PM '69
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
JAN 29 3 47 PM '69
REC'D DeLOACH
F B I

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

NOTE:

Article appearing the "The Washington Post" on 1-29-69, in part states that the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Reverend Ralph David Abernathy inferred that a conspiracy exists in the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination. According to the information coming from the press conference, Abernathy claims that Negro leaders in Memphis believe that persons other than James Earl Ray were aware of the plan to kill Martin Luther King, Jr. The article further states that Abernathy said the information was second-hand and he could not vouch for its validity.

We are instructing Atlanta (Headquarters of SCLC) to interview Abernathy for details of information and to completely resolve. We previously interviewed Abernathy in Memphis, Tennessee, in April of 1968, and at that time he did not indicate that a conspiracy existed.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1/23/69

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL (Priority)

DECLASSIFIED BY 897-R [illegible]
ON 9-28-84
6 Arrow 1 SCLC

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (44-1368)(P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DECLASSIFIED BY [illegible]
ON [illegible]

Re Philadelphia teletypes dated 1/19/69 and 1/21/69.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM titled as above.

Copies are being furnished locally to MI, NISO, OSI, Secret Service, and USA, EDPa.

One copy of this LHM is being forwarded Atlanta for information since Atlanta is OO in SCLC. Two copies are being furnished Memphis since Memphis is OO MURKIN.

This LHM is classified confidential to protect identity of PH 897-R since PH 897-R and one other individual were present when BEVEL made this statement. PH 897-R continues to furnish excellent information concerning racial and security matters.

Source utilized in the LHM is PH 897-R.

When interviewed on 1/21/69, agents had to wait 30 minutes for BEVEL because BEVEL was holding a meeting in the next room.

ENCLOSURE

REC-39 44-38861-5320

EX-113

25 JAN 29 1969

5 - Bureau (RM) (Encs. 11)
3 - 44-38861
1 - 100-438794 (SCLC)
1 - 157-10808 (JAMES BEVEL)
1 - Atlanta (SCLC) (Info) (RM)(Enc. 1)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(MURKIN)RM) (Encs. 2)
5 - Philadelphia
1 - 44-1987 (MURKIN)
1 - 100-47194 (SCLC)
1 - 157-1214 (RACIAL DISTURBANCES - MAJOR URBAN AREA)
1 - 157-2979 (JAMES BEVEL)
1 - 170-53 (PH 897-R)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

61 FEB 12 1969

1cc: AAG Civil Rights Division
Form 6-94
1 cc CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT
JAN 29 1969

1cc: AAG Criminal Division
Form 6-94

Part of para. 5 was released to Harold Weisberg under FOIA prior to DRC decision of 2-16-78 to upgrade to (C) per [illegible] 2/23/78

100-438794-1
157-10808-8

UNREC COPY AUTOMATICALLY FILED IN

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FILED
JAN 31 1969
RECEIVED
JAN 29 12 39 PM 1969
FBI
REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
JAN 29 1 08 PM '69
JAN 30 10 25 AM 1969
REC'D
INTELL DIV

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

For the information of Atlanta, BEVEL is currently employed at the Health and Welfare Council, Inc., 1428 Columbia Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa., telephone CE 2-9911.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 23, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Reverend James Bevel was interviewed at his residence, 919 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., on January 21, 1969. The following are the results of this interview:

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 11/29/77

~~Classified By 6080~~
~~Exempt from GDS, Category 2~~
~~Date of Declassification Indefinite~~
~~CCDTEGM 6/9/77~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

[redacted]ic

~~APPROPRIATE AGENCIES~~
~~AND FIELD OFFICES~~
~~ADVISED BY LETTERHEAD~~
~~SLIP(S) OF~~
~~DATE~~

CONFIDENTIAL

5526

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Date 1/23/69

Reverend JAMES BEVEL was interviewed for ten minutes at his residence. He stated he was extremely busy as he had appointments through 11:00 p.m. that day. While the interview was in progress, a woman asked BEVEL if he could speak to a member of the press. BEVEL told her to tell the person on the telephone he was tied up until 11:00 p.m.

BEVEL stated he had proof of the innocence of JAMES EARL RAY in connection with the murder of his good friend Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. BEVEL referred to KING as one of his closest and dearest friends. BEVEL stated that since the FBI was connected with the prosecution and he was involved with the defense, he felt he should not furnish this information.

It was pointed out to BEVEL that the FBI is an investigative agency and does not prosecute anyone. It was also pointed out to BEVEL that the FBI is as interested in proving a person's innocence as proving a person's guilt. BEVEL was advised the FBI was interested in obtaining and proving all facts possible during any investigation.

BEVEL stated he sent a telegram to RAY on Saturday, January 18, 1969, and as of the date of the interview, he had received no answer to his telegram. BEVEL stated in connection with this he planned to call PERCY FOREMAN, Attorney for RAY on the night of January 21, 1969, and offer his services in connection with RAY's defense.

BEVEL stated he would telephone the contacting agents on January 22, 1969, and advise if FOREMAN accepted his offer. BEVEL stated if FOREMAN does not accept his offer to aid the defense, he, BEVEL, plans to drop the entire matter as he feels he has no moral obligation towards RAY to produce his evidence of RAY's innocence if his offer of help is refused.

It was pointed out to BEVEL that if he had evidence of RAY's innocence, it should be brought to the attention of the court. BEVEL again stated he would do so only if he was allowed to be part of RAY's defense.

BEVEL stated that at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING

On 1/21/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 44-1368

by SA RALPH C. HAMNER and SA EDWARD M. COLE EMC:kpb Date dictated 1/22/69

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

was shot at the Loraine Motel in Memphia, he was standing on the ground underneath the balcony where KING was shot.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CONFIDENTIAL

JAMES EARL RAY
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

On January 22, 1969, Special Agent Edward M. Cole telephonically attempted to contact Reverend Bevel at approximately 2:30 p.m. The person answering stated Reverend Bevel would not return until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m.

On January 21, 1969, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised he with others spoke with Bevel concerning Bevel's statement on the innocence of James Earl Ray. This group, including the informant, are considered "militants" by Bevel. During the discussion with Bevel it was pointed out to Bevel that the general feeling of the militants is that Ray was guilty of shooting Reverend King and that Bevel should furnish what evidence he has or keep quiet.

Bevel told this group he has no evidence but that he feels the "system" is killing a man worth nothing while this man actually killed a greater man. Bevel stated that if he is allowed to defend Ray he, Bevel, will bring out everything that the "system" did to cause the death of King. Bevel also stated he feels this is a method to rejuvenate Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Philadelphia, as SCLC has fallen off to almost nothing in Philadelphia. In connection with this, Bevel stated he is to receive a check by Western Union from SCLC, Atlanta, for $500.

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-323 (Rev. 11-29-61)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 23, 1969

Title JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Character

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned as above at Philadelphia, Pa.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

5

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 23, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Reverend James Bevel was interviewed at his residence, 919 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., on January 21, 1969. The following are the results of this interview:

Classified By [illegible]
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
LED/ekm 6/9/77

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

[redacted]

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLK/00
ON 10-16-01

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Date 1/23/69

Reverend JAMES BEVEL was interviewed for ten minutes at his residence. He stated he was extremely busy as he had appointments through 11:00 p.m. that day. While the interview was in progress, a woman asked BEVEL if he could speak to a member of the press. BEVEL told her to tell the person on the telephone he was tied up until 11:00 p.m.

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On 1/21/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 44-1368

by SA RALPH C. HAMNER and SA EDWARD M. COLE EMC:kpb Date dictated 1/22/69

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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